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Contents for Week of April 5, 1926. Vol. V. No. 5.

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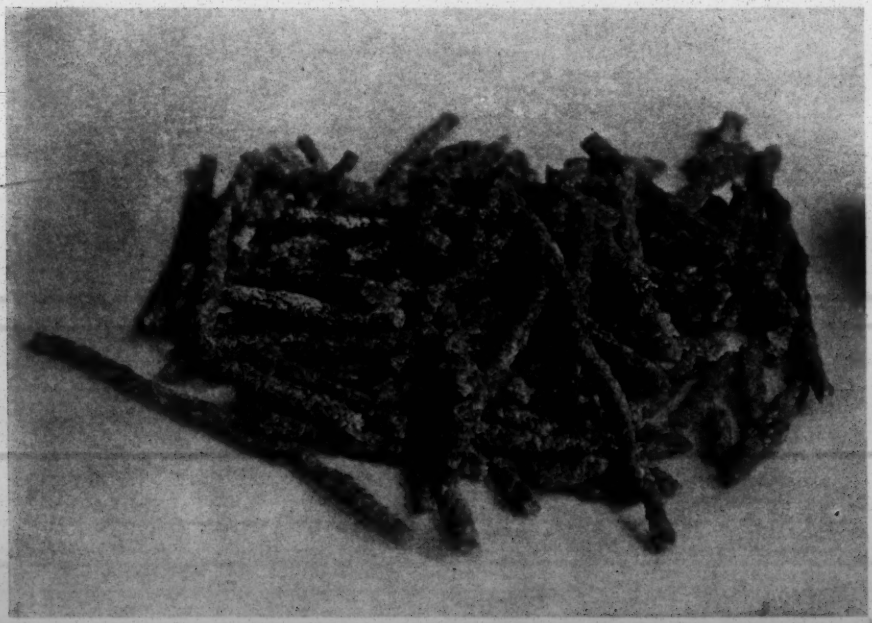

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CHINESE PAY AS HIGH AS THIRTY DOLLARS A POUND FOR EDIBLE BIRD'S NESTS

(See Bulletin No 2)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Quetta: Where the Society's Solar Expedition May Locate

NEWS dispatches say that a mountain near Quetta, in Baluchistan, will probably be the site of the new solar observatory to be established by the National Geographic Society in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. C. G. Abbot, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, looks favorably upon the Quetta region as the proper location of the observatory after investigation of sites in Morocco and the Sinai Peninsula. The purpose of the solar expedition has been to locate a third station where it will be possible to determine the day-to-day variation of the sun's heat. Two observatories have been in operation for some years in the new Hemisphere, one in north Chile and the other on Mount Wilson in California. From the data obtained at the observatories, scientists hope to predict weather conditions. Quetta is familiar—as a name—to readers of Kipling and workers of crossword puzzles, but probably means little to most Americans.

From Huts to Villas

Quetta exists primarily for military purposes, but British law and order in place of lawlessness and banditry of former days has made an important civil community and trading center of it as well. Baluchistan is India's barrier to the east, and Quetta is its strongest point. The British have been in control of the place since 1877. Since 1883 they have held it under perpetual lease from its old ruler, the Wali of Kalat.

When the British went in, Quetta was only a little group of mud huts surrounded by unhealthful plains that were virtually swamps. Drainage and sanitation have made the place over. Now Quetta has a population of about 30,000; and the once swampy lowlands furnish a setting for villas and farm houses surrounded by orchards and planted groves.

Yet the outstanding feature of Quetta remains the cantonment where six or eight regiments of British and Indian troops are quartered. This extensive camp is to the north on relatively high ground while the civil town is to the south on a lower level. Mud, in the form of sun-dried brick, is still a most important building material in the town, though not to the extent that it was 20 years ago. Then mud-brick domes formed many of the roofs, and were considered safe because of Quetta's scant rainfall (about 10 inches annually). But there came an unusually wet spring. Most of Quetta's buildings melted away. Since then many iron roofs—less picturesque, but better insurance against the weather—have peeped above the mud walls of the town.

The climate of Quetta has interesting aspects. The place is in the same latitude as Cairo; Jacksonville, Florida; and Shanghai. But because of its 6,000 feet of altitude and certain physical features of the surrounding country, its climate is very different. Each day the mercury bobs up and down through a wide range. The difference between daily maximum and minimum has been known to reach 80 degrees, but such excessive changes are confined to certain short seasons. The hills and even the valleys of Baluchistan are largely treeless, so when the sun is down heat radiates away rapidly. As a consequence the nights are always cool—even when the sun blisters one by day.

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IRRIGATION, OLD STYLE, IN PALESTINE

This primitive irrigation wheel was used outside Jerusalem until a few years ago. All the lifting of water from wells in most parts of Palestine was done by rude mechanisms turned by mules or camels. A project calling for the expenditure of ten million dollars is now planned for irrigating the Jordan Valley. A big dam will be thrown across the river and the canals will make this part of Palestine a land once more "flowing with milk and honey" (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Some Kitchen Geography

IN THE United States we erect statues to statesmen, to military heroes and sometimes to writers.

France erects statues to statesmen, military heroes, writers and cooks.

One recent memorial dedicated tells in eternal bronze France's debt to Marie Harel, inventor of Camembert cheese. More recently a statue has been erected by the city of Strasburg on the Rhine to Clause, Master Cook, creator of pate de foie gras. Well may Strasburg honor him for much money has rolled into the city from France and countries beyond the sea, to buy the "fatted goose livers." Toulouse in southern France also prepares goose livers in little jars and calls them pates because the first pates were shaped like pastry tarts. But Strasburg is preeminent. In Strasburg thousands of geese are confined to small cages and stuffed with salted corn. They grow as stout as burgomasters. It is not uncommon to find a two or three pound liver in a grown goose.

When it comes to geographic short-stories, kitchens can supply many similar tales of strange customs, strange lands, and strange peoples. One quickly finds that the stories from the cooks' domain are flavored with history yet spiced with humor and are, indeed, quite delicious!

When the Capitol Was a Bakery

Take, for example, the intimate relation between Congress and a famous bun. Below the floor of the United States Capitol the Vienna roll was first made for America. It happened this way. All the quiet on the Potomac was shattered one day during the Civil War by rumors that the Confederates were plotting to blow up the bakeries on the outskirts of Washington. Next day Pennsylvania Avenue saw a strange parade, bakers and baker wagons, bake ovens and baker supplies, toiling along to the Capitol. It was while the bakeries occupied the extensive cellars under the Halls of Congress that Vienna rolls and French bread were introduced in Washington and a taste for them spread through the Nation.

Did you know that Benjamin Franklin is the father of the broom industry in America? A lady came to Philadelphia from Europe and brought a whisk broom. Franklin happened to see it one day and noticed the unusual stiffness of the fibers. Attached to one straw he saw a seed pod which he requested of the lady. Franklin is said to have planted the seed, and thus he grew the first broom corn in the United States.

Blue Ribbon Is Supreme Honor to a Cook

Franklin had many honors in many fields, but there is no record of his winning the Blue Ribbon. Nowadays prize horses and cows, prize peanuts and babies, are given Blue Ribbons, but that is a misuse of a sacred privilege. The "Cordon Bleu," as the French say, is the supreme distinction for cookery. An argument between Louis XV and Madame Du Barry brought it into being. The King said only men could be superior chefs. Madame Du Barry rose in defense of her sex. She had a wonderful dinner prepared. The King came, ate, and admired. He asked the name of the chef that he might attach him to the royal household.

"I have caught you at last," said Du Barry. "The chef is not a man at all, but a woman. I demand a recompense for her, worthy both of her and your

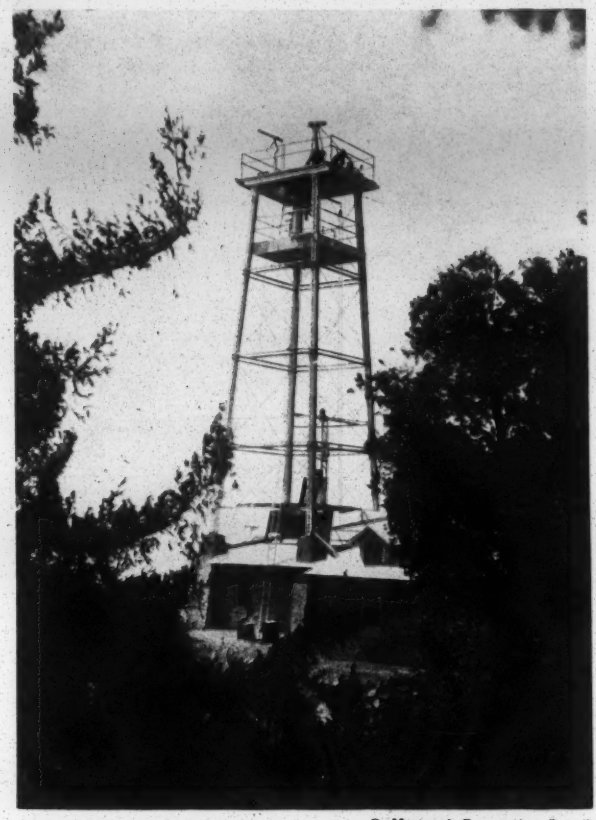
Kojak, Where Skies Are Bluest

If the Smithsonian-National Geographic solar observatory is established in Baluchistan it will be placed on top 7,525-foot Kojak peak about 40 miles north of Quetta near the railroad which pierces the Kojak Range and extends to Chaman, ten miles beyond on the Afghan border. To the east beyond the Kojak Mountains the Registan or Helmand Desert stretches for more than 100 miles. It is 60 miles to the nearest mountains in the north. To the east lies a long, broad valley. On this isolated mountain ridge on the edge of the desert the precipitation is even less than in Quetta—probably seven inches or less per year. When Dr. Abbot visited the Kojak peak in January he reported that the sky was perfectly blue right up to the sun's edge and added: "It was the clearest sky I have ever seen in the world."

FOR FURTHER READING

Teachers who wish to use this bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied and more extensive subject matter and illustration in the following National Geographic Magazine article: "Measuring the Sun's Heat and Forecasting the Weather." By C. G. Abbot. January, 1926, 16 illustrations, pp. 111–126.

Bulletin No. 1, April 5, 1926.



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OBSERVING TOWER AT SMITHSONIAN STATION ON MOUNT WILSON, CALIFORNIA

While many of the original observations of the solar-radiation experts were made at the now abandoned Harqua Hala station, in Arizona, conditions in California were found to be better adapted to the work. The apparatus at the right, on top of the tower, is a coelostat, which by a double-mirror arrangement reflects the solar beams down into the laboratory, at the base of the tower.

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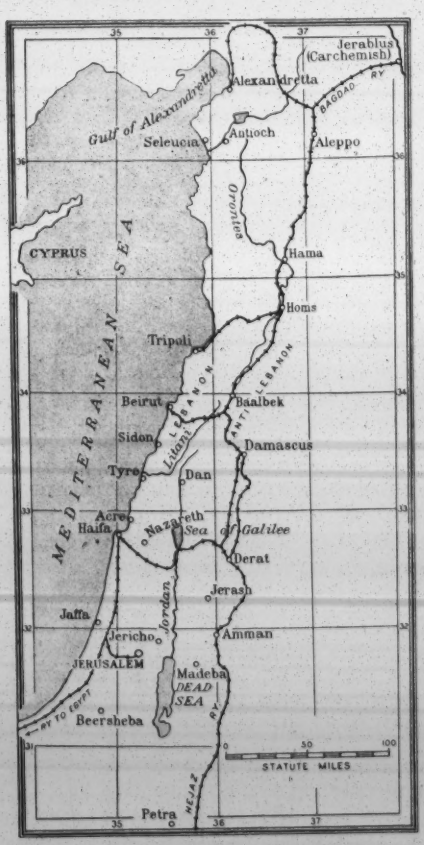
Palestine Imitates Florida with Oranges and Winter Resorts

PALESTINE, having developed one Florida industry, now plans to add another. The first industry adopted was the growing of oranges. Now it purposes to go into the winter resort business by erecting a garden city outside the walls of the lowest city in the world, Jericho. The new resort will be called New Jericho.

That Palestine is not forgetting her orange industry while pushing on to a new endeavor, is shown by the recent agreement to dam the River Jordan. A ten million dollar project has been agreed to by the British high commissioners. The dam will make the River Jordan of Biblical fame produce electricity and irrigate broad fields where arid desert now exists.



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SKETCH MAP OF PALESTINE AND SYRIA

Palestine owes its multitude of orange trees to a feature of Turk tax law, not British regulation. It came about in this manner: The country was ground down badly during the World War. Enemies were pushing in on all sides and contact with much of the outside world was cut off. The necessity for revenue became greater and greater. Much of Palestine's wealth is in its producing trees—olives, nuts, oranges and other fruits. Every "food" tree, whether it actually produced or not, was taxed heavily. At the same time the war created a demand for wood for use on the narrow-gauge railroads needed for military operations. The result was that all non-bearing and poorly bearing fruit and nut trees were cut down.

Land That "Flowed with Milk and Honey" Needs Flowing Water

But the demand for wood made such inroads on the orange trees that the Turkish governors became frightened. They withdrew the tax on orange trees. The orange became suddenly the one tree that the people could afford to own extensively, and the result was that they were planted in great numbers. To this series of events the numerous groves of orange trees now owe their origin. Oranges are most abundant and fine luscious ones can be bought for less than a cent apiece.

majesty. Your royal bounty has made my negro servant, Zamore, governor of Luciennes, and I cannot accept less than the 'Cordon Bleu' for my cook."

Certain names of familiar kitchen supplies have odd origins. Currants are named for a famous city of Greek antiquity. Greece still is famous as the home of the currant. The variety which grew in ancient days in the vicinity of the present Gortho was prized above all. Gortho is on the site of old Corinth, pronounced in former times "Corauntz" and producer of fine currants. Cantaloupes take their name from Cantalupo, Italy, but a popular variety favored in America, Rocky Ford cantaloupes, originated in Rocky Ford, a small town of Colorado. To Italy we are indebted for a trim, white breed of chickens and we pay our debt by awarding them the name of an Italian seaport, Leghorn.

Boston and New York Claim "Porterhouse" Steaks

The neighboring Iberian Peninsula has given to the English language the luscious word "Marmalade." When the Portuguese preserved quice in syrup they called it "marmelo." In coming over to the English the word spread its arms wide and took in many more fruits and even nuts to label toothsome marmalade. Brussels sprouts came by their name more honestly than Brussels carpets. The sprouts have been a favorite with Belgium since the 14th century but the carpets were never made in Brussels.

Cooks have a finger in our language, witness Saratoga chips. These were popularized by a negro cook at a summer hotel on Morris Lake, Saratoga, New York. Good cooking is supposed to be a Southern specialty but Boston has advertised her wares more, according to the the evidence of names. In addition to the Parker House roll, the Hub city has put its label on Boston baked beans and Boston cream pie. The old Parker House where the "roll" was created recently was torn down. A new modern Parker House will replace it.

Knives and forks at six paces alone can settle the title to porterhouse steak. Boston claims that the choice cut was the particular pride of Porter's Tavern, a roadhouse near Cambridge. New York holds that the proprietor of a saloon, or "porter" house, near the old Fly Market observed that the steaks cut from the thick end of the sirloin were best. He insisted that his butcher cut none but these for him. The fame of "porterhouse" steak spread rapidly, establishing the name in the terminology of meats.

Monsieur Julienne's Potatoes and Dr. Graham's Bread

A famous French chef has done better. He fixed his own name, Jean Julienne, in the French and English languages, to brand a method of preparing potatoes for the table. Sylvester Graham, a physician and dietetician, won similar honor by his great enthusiasm for the beneficial powers of graham bread.

Both kitchen and grocery are mixed up in the international complications of macaroni and its cousin spaghetti. Like so many of the useful things of Christian civilization, macaroni is an invention of China—or Japan. It was introduced in Europe by the Germans, from whom the Italians learned to make it. Italy soon made macaroni her national food but the rest of Europe did not learn to appreciate it until much later. At Tours, France, there lived a chef who learned to make macaroni from the Italians. He earned a reputation for his tasty dishes. Hearing of him, the King of France paid a special visit to Tours and came away praising both chef and macaroni. Now macaroni is a foodstuff known far and wide. Germans call macaroni "nudel" which America has corrupted into "noodle" to label a special kind of macaroni.

Bulletin No. 2, April 5, 1926.

FOR FURTHER READING

Teachers who wish to use this bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied and more extensive subject matter and illustration in the following National Geographic Magazine article: "How the World is Fed." By William Joseph Showalter. January, 1916, 85 illustrations (black and white), 16 pages rotogravure inserts, pp. 1–110.

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Vladivostok, Which Will Have a Modern Colossus

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia's far eastern port, is to have a statue which will be higher than the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. The colossus will be an image of the dead Soviet leader Lenin. It will show Lenin pointing to Russia. Ships will be able to see the statue while many miles out at sea, it is said. The Soviet Government plans to call the statue "Lenin enlightening the workers and peasants of the world."

The eastern metropolis of Siberia is described in a communication by Cody Marsh to the National Geographic Society:

"Vladivostok, the largest and most interesting city of eastern Siberia, owes much to Russia's loss of Port Arthur. That misfortune during the Russo-Japanese War increased the Tsar's interest in the more northerly seaport until he had made it worthy of its name, 'Ruler of the East.' The one disadvantage of Vladivostok is that its harbor is frozen during several months of the year. In spite of this drawback, I believe it is conceded that Vladivostok possesses the second finest harbor in the world. It is claimed that from a military standpoint the city was second only to the Dardanelles.

Automobiles at the Bottom of the Bay

"Whatever lessons the Tsar learned from the Russo-Japanese War, Vladivostok proves that he had determined not to be caught napping again. Batteries of large defense guns and concrete emplacements for many more guard the mouth of the harbor. The harbor is equipped with machine-shops, floating dry-docks, stationary dry-docks, a naval base, hoisting-cranes, and shed after shed of supplies.

"The shores are lined with rotting hulks of submarines, torpedo-boats and destroyers, tugs, and many other kinds of naval gear and equipment. On the floor of the harbor rest expensive automobiles and other material which had been unloaded on the ice during the last year of the World War and allowed to sink with the spring thaw, during Siberia's period of chaos.

"The city spreads out at the foot of many hills and rises into a beautiful and sudden spectacle, as one's steamer makes a turn in the approach from the sea. A cathedral with many golden domes occupies a place of vantage, and everywhere rise huge stone and brick barracks, mostly white, with an occasional pile in red brick for contrast.

"All around the city are barracks, barracks everywhere. It is said that there are sufficient barracks in and around Vladivostok to house an army of half a million men. These barracks are substantially built and provide protection against the heat of July as well as the cold of winter. Even out in the country, beyond the suburbs, where one begins to feel he is away from these structures, a sudden turn around a hill reveals another string of two-story brick barracks, including chapel, officers' quarters, and stables.

"There are numbers of institutions of learning in Vladivostok, notably the Oriental Institute and the Commercial School, while the noble Zemstvo building, apartment houses built for officers and their families, and many fine private residences lend architectural distinction to the city. The fine pile occupied at one

With all its bickerings and bitterness among Jews and Arabs and Christians, Palestine has been the scene of much constructive work since the end of the World War. There are many phases of its economic life which are promising.

One of the principal projects before Palestine is the construction of irrigation works. Because of centuries of neglect and the destruction of its forests, much of the country has become dry, desert-like waste. But much of the soil is rich. If an adequate supply of water can be turned upon the land, the country may once more deserve the description "flowing with milk and honey." The land within the great rift (sunken valley) of the Jordan can be most easily supplied with water.

The water of the Jordan, on its way to the Dead Sea, has a descent of more than 600 feet in the 75 miles separating the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Engineers believe they can develop a considerable amount of power by harnessing the Jordan at several points. Some of the more ambitious proposals even look to the creation of an industrial Palestine with the Jordan power, while others would make use of the power for city purposes and crops.

Flying Below Sea-level

Nowhere else in the world is there such an extensive region so far below sea-level as in the Jordan-Dead Sea rift. The surface of the Dead Sea is about a quarter of a mile below the surface of the Mediterranean, and the Sea of Galilee is roughly half that distance below sea-level. The valley, ranging in width from five to fifteen miles, and its lower slopes, therefore form an area of between 500 and 1,000 square miles lying more than 600 feet below the sea. In an airplane one can fly here above the surface of the earth and yet below sea-level.

The Jordan River is the eastern boundary of Palestine as marked out under the mandate given to Great Britain. Nearly half the fertile valley, therefore, which it is proposed to irrigate, will not belong to the mandate, but to the Emirate of Kerak—"Transjordania"—one of the Arabian countries about which very little is heard. Kerak is closely allied to the Kingdom of Hejaz which adjoins it to the south.

Bulletin No. 3, April 5, 1926.

FOR FURTHER READING

Teachers who wish to use this bulletin for project or reading assignment will find allied and more extensive subject matter and illustration in the following National Geographic Magazine articles: "The Last Israelite Blood Sacrifice." By John D. Whiting. January, 1920, 41 illustrations, 1 sketch map, pp. 1–46. "Village Life in the Holy Land." By John D. Whiting. March, 1914, 27 illustrations (black and white), 21 illustrations (full color), pp. 249–314. "An Old Jewel in the Proper Setting: An Eyewitness's Account of the Reconquest of the Holy Land by Twentieth Century Crusaders." By Charles W. Whitehair. October, 1918, 14 illustrations, pp. 325–344. "Impressions of Palestine." By James Bryce. March, 1915, 18 illustrations, 1 sketch map, pp. 293–317. "Syria: The Land Link of History's Chain." By Maynard Owen Williams. November, 1919, 20 illustrations, 1 fourth-page map, pp. 437–462.

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When the United States Tried to Win the West with Camels

A CAMEL that could travel faster than 15 miles an hour would have earned the respect, perhaps, of the U. S. Army mule drivers and, in due time, contributed to the winning of the West.

A camel capable of this speed now exists. It is the product of the French breeding station at Tunis. The champion recently held the speed of 15 miles an hour plus over a 16-mile course. Whether or not the camel's rider held his seat is not reported.

It is doubtful, however, if even camels that raced would have changed the strange story of the project to establish a government-owned camel colony in the American southwest.

Camels for "the Great American Desert"

Egypt and Asia Minor were the main sources of supply for the Federal Government. Two shiploads of camels were brought over in 1856 and 1857 for use in "the great American desert," which was, in those early days, believed to be a sort of a Sahara of the Western Hemisphere. There were then no transcontinental railways or highways. Hundreds of thousands of square miles of the West were totally unknown. The few trails across the continent were difficult and the lives of those using them were in constant danger from hostile Indians.

It was believed that communication across the continent could be greatly aided by the use of camels that could carry much heavier loads than mules and horses, cover greater distances, and go longer without water. The most enthusiastic supporters of the scheme also looked forward to a full-fledged "Camel Corps, U. S. Army." They expected that this cavalry of the desert would sweep over the barren regions of the West and keep the Indians in subjection.

The project was in charge of the War Department, and Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, was its most ardent advocate. The strange beasts—75 of them in all—were landed at Indianola about midway of the coast of Texas and marched westward overland. Sixty miles west of San Antonio at Camp Verde the government's camel station was established. For some years the test marches of the camels gave the countryside the appearance of Asia or Africa.

When Camels Appeared Horses Bolted in Terror

Uncle Sam's camel experiment was a failure but not because the beasts could not live in America. After the first year of trial, when the sicklier animals died, certain breeds became used to the climate and increased in numbers. But the Army muleteers detailed to the camel station declared war against the strange creatures from the first. Only the few Greek and Turkish camel drivers brought from Smyrna had any patience with them. The ranchmen and other residents of the country shared the feelings of the muleteers, for whenever a camel appeared horses and mules bolted in terror.

Tests showed that the camels were well fitted to work in the Southwest. On one expedition they crossed Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to the Colorado River. Their successful march was highly commended by the Army officer in charge. Perhaps even the dislike of their drivers might have been overcome in

time by the American Army Headquarters was built for a German department store.

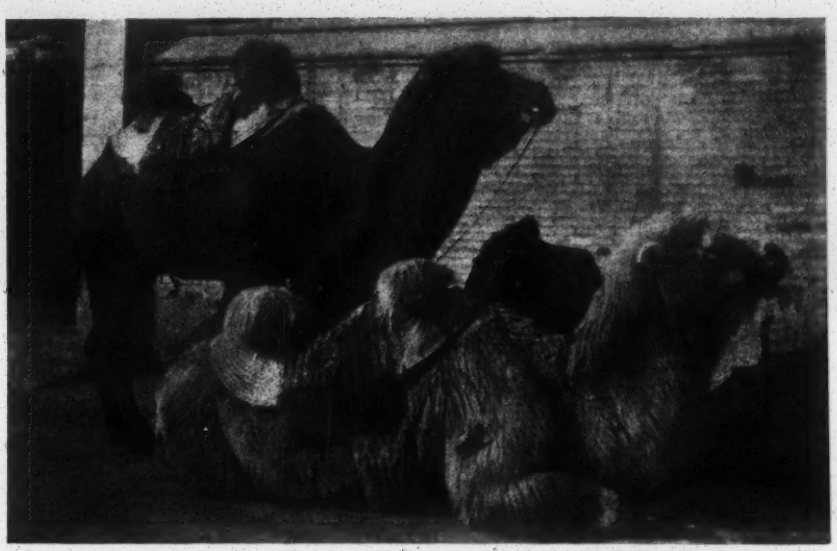
"The city skirts the harbor in shoestring fashion, with one main avenue, the beautiful Svetlanskaya, running the entire length, ending in a popular bathing establishment, where the Siberians gather in great numbers.

Vladivostok, the Key to Siberia

"The Tsar's advisers had thought of everything in building this city—religion, education, amusements, hotels, homes, and everything needed by the military. The best engineers planned it and the cheap coolie labor of the Orient did the work. Two large department stores would do credit to an American city of the first rank, and I was pleasantly surprised in the variety of articles that could be purchased.

"Vladivostok is the key to Siberia. It is the beginning of the Transsiberian Railroad, and everything intended for Siberia enters there. The only other gateway is through Manchuria to Harbin."

Bulletin No. 4, April 5, 1926.



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SHIPS OF THE DESERT IN PEKING

Mongolian camels are fine, shaggy, brown beasts. Sometimes an occasional white, or rather a dirty-white camel, is seen. Mongolian camels live in a cold climate so they need a heavy coat. Contrast with the short-haired camel of the Sahara desert (see Bulletin No. 5).

time and the camel might have taken as important a place in the Southwest as it did in central Australia. The coming on of the Civil War, however, put an end of the experiment. Some of the camels were sold to circuses, some to individuals, and some were turned loose in the rough, uninhabited country of Arizona.

Report Herd Still Roams the West

A few crumbling camel stables at the old camp west of San Antonio are the only monument to Uncle Sam's try at camel raising. For many years camels—grown wild—were seen occasionally in the mountains of Arizona. They were reported last seen in 1909. There is a belief among some Arizonians that the creatures still wander about in the uninhabited wastes of that State and that there is a herd not far from the delta of the Colorado in Mexico.

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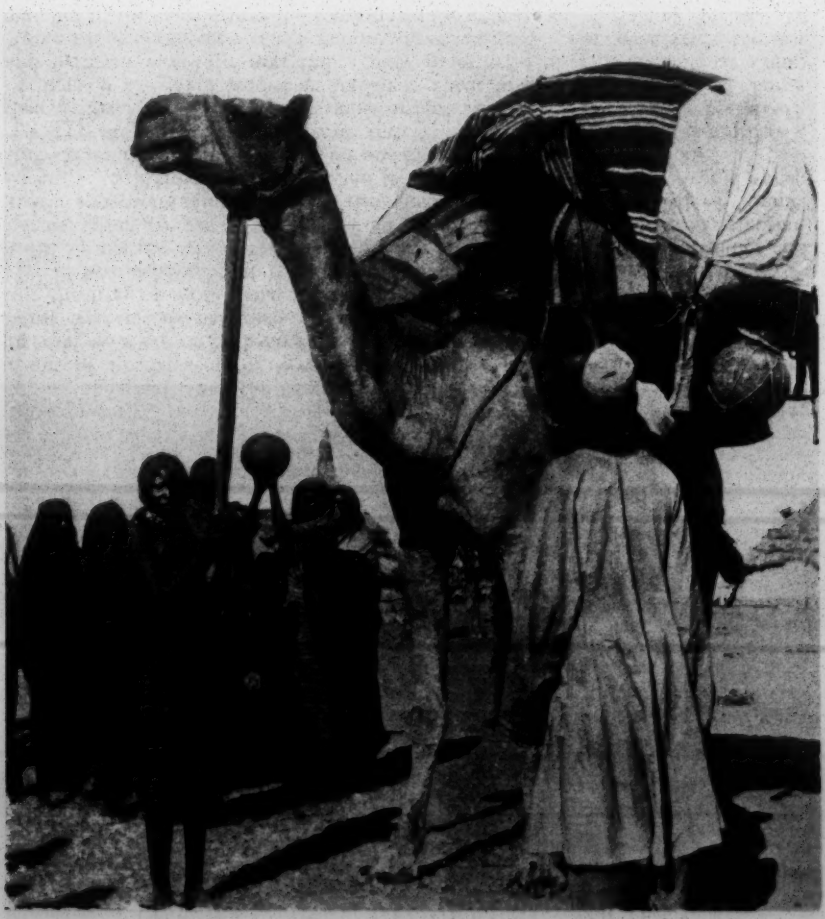

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A CLOSED MODEL FOR A LADY OF QUALITY

The lady's bed is slung across the camel and surmounted by a sun shelter. In this instance the traveler is a bride going off to her husband's village. Contrast this tall, rangy, close-haired camel with the Mongolian camel shown following Bulletin No. 4.